

Leslie Patterson

From: Leslie Patterson
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 4:56 PM
To: Leslie Patterson
Subject: At UN, 45 Countries Call on Cambodian Govt. to Reinstate CNRP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
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Cambodia National Rescue Party Praises Joint-Statement from 45 Member States of the United Nations on Human Rights in Cambodia

GENEVA—During the United Nations Human Rights Council's 37th Session today, New Zealand released a joint-statement on behalf of a group of 45 member states on the human rights situation in Cambodia. In the joint-statement, the countries expressed their deep concern about the recent decline of civil and political rights in Cambodia, including the Cambodian government's actions to undermine a free, fair and inclusive electoral process in the country's national election this July.

The 45 countries urged the Cambodian government to reinstate the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) and all elected members to their nation and communal seats, to release CNRP President Mr. Kem Sokha and all political prisoners and human rights activists, and to repeal the amendments to the Law on Political Parties, which provided legal cover for the dissolution of political parties. The statement reiterated that an electoral process in which the primary democratic opposition party, in this case the CNRP, is excluded cannot be considered genuine or legitimate.

"At the end of February, we had a unanimous statement from 28 key trade allies and partners of Cambodia asserting that without Kem Sokha free and CNRP restored, the elections in Cambodia will not be considered legitimate. Now that number is 45, amounting to more than half of Cambodia's trade partners. If that doesn't alarm the Hun Sen government, then Mr. Hun Sen has made a conscious decision to risk the well-being and prosperity of the Cambodian people. We call yet again for him to listen to these friendly calls to return to direct political dialogue and open free, fair and inclusive elections. CNRP is ready," said **Mu Sochua, Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, from New Zealand.** "We praise New Zealand and the other 44-member states for recognizing the deterioration of democracy and human rights in Cambodia and for urging the Cambodian Government to reinstate the CNRP and ensure the participation of all opposition parties to restore fair, free and inclusive elections."

This joint-statement comes on the heels of international action against the Cambodian regime, including massive demonstrations by Cambodian expatriates in Geneva on Monday and in Australia last week. The European Union recently released conclusions reiterating concerns about recent developments regarding democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Cambodia and threatening to revoke trade partnerships if Mr. Hun Sen does not allow opposition parties, civil society and media to operate freely, especially leading up to the national elections this July. The United States also has taken action by cutting aid to Cambodia because of the increasing anti-democratic actions.

This release is distributed by BerlinRosen Ltd. on behalf of the Cambodia National Rescue Movement. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

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